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VenuesNow Pulse, February 15, 2018: Amway Center locks down; Louis Armstrong Stadium, Capital One Arena, Maryvale Baseball Park all getting uplifts

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vn pulse

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Greetings Samantha,

The lighthearted Valentine's Day-themed introduction was starting to take shape yesterday when the tragic news began to come in from Florida, and then there simply were no words. We all have jobs to do and people depending on us — family, friends, business associates, customers — and so we go on, to serve them as best we can, to give them the best of us. But a heavy heart can make that difficult, and this is one of those times. We keep all of those affected by the Florida school shooting in our hearts.



Amway Center, Orlando. (Photo courtesy Amway Center)

'Take Every Threat Seriously'

By Don Muret

When Allen Johnson of Amway Center in Orlando learned of a credible threat against singer Lana Del Rey before a performance at the arena earlier this month, both arena staff and authorities jumped into action. A suspect was arrested that night a few blocks from the venue.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The difference between a threat and a credible threat is that they looked into the background of the individual who is making the threat and whether he has the criminal history or potential to do something.”

— Allen Johnson, chief venue officer, Amway Center, Orlando, on why he took swift action after hearing about a potential safety threat to singer Lana Del Rey.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Abby Boustead, Chad Phillips, Brenda Ramsay, Christian Lewis, Dave Butler, Jane Kleinberger, Keith White, Steve Demots, Kim Damron, Deana Barnes, Jessica Boudevin and Craig Ricks were on hand at PACnet '18, held in Newport Beach, Feb 12-14. (VN Photo)

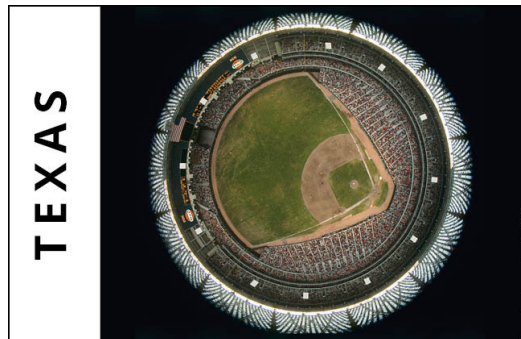
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'Great Night For A Love Jam'

By Noelle Riley

Valentine's Day is an opportunity for facilities to program romantic acts that will bring in couples. One such venue, Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla., reached out to Andrea Bocelli to perform a special midweek concert to mark the occasion. The venue also has an attached restaurant called Firestick Grill where guests could have a romantic, buffet-style dinner before the show at



March Spotlight

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Making The Most Of Big Events

By Linda Deckard

When performing arts centers and arenas get the chance to play host to a marquee event, they have the chance to reap the benefits far beyond that night or run. Proper preparation can help make that happen, experts at last week's Pacnet '18 conference said.

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Change Is In The Air In D.C.

By Brad Weissberg

Details of the \$40-million renovation at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C., have been unveiled. Improvements will include new upgraded seats including the end-zone risers, new clubs, a state-of-the-art sound system, new floors and lighting, renovated concourses, redesigned concession stands and a new



Story Behind Rupp's New Deal

By Linda Deckard

Carl Hall of Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., talks about what drove the venue to sign a new booking deal and what it hopes to get out of the agreement. Rupp announced last week that it had entered into a three-year exclusive deal with OVG Facilities to book all event programming except University of Kentucky events, including UK athletics.

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USTA Rebuild In Full Swing

By Don Muret

The new Louis Armstrong Stadium in Queens, N.Y., is in the end stages of a \$180-million renovation project that converts the site of the old facility into one of the Grand Slam tournaments' most intimate large tennis venues, topped by a retractable roof.

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menu designed by celebrity chefs.

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A Bigger Entrance In Phoenix

By Don Muret

The Milwaukee Brewers are embarking on a \$55-million renovation of Maryvale Baseball Park at the conclusion of spring training this year. HKS is the principal architect.

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Three Cheers For Gaga in Europe

Lady Gaga's European jaunt made its mark on the Hot Tickets charts, placing stops in Birmingham, England; Assago, Italy; and Hamburg, Germany, among the top 20 shows..

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IAVM Regional Meetings; VOS Ahead

IAVM Region 6 Meeting, Padre Island, Texas, Apr. 8-11; IAVM Regions 1,2,3,5, Lexington, Ky., Apr. 22-24; Venue Operations Summit, Nashville, Tenn., Apr. 29 - May 1.

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Opry Visionary Buchanan Retiring

Opry Entertainment Group President Steve Buchanan is leaving his post after running the company for 33 years. Buchanan is also the executive producer of the TV show "Nashville."

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SHORT TAKES

Upgrades to Wells Fargo Arena approved

The board of regents at Arizona State University in Tempe approved plans to renovate Wells Fargo Arena. Plans include a rebuilt lower bowl and wider concourses, as well as upgraded seating, restrooms, and concessions. In addition to the Wells Fargo Arena renovation, The board also approved the construction of a new 5,000-seat indoor facility designed for multiple sports, including hockey, gymnastics, and wrestling.

Ryman Hospitality And Blake Shelton Donate Proceeds From Ole Red Events

Blake Shelton and Ryman Hospitality Properties donated \$50,000 of ticket sales from this weekend's concerts at Ole Red, Shelton's restaurant, live music venue and retail space in Tishomingo, Okla., to the city of Tishomingo. The money will stay in the community and benefit Pennington Park, including improvements to the current splash pad and the addition of water features.

Decatur Civic Center Now Ameren Illinois Arena

Decatur (Ill.) Civic Center's arena is now the Ameren Illinois Arena. Hickory Point Bank & Trust previously had arena naming rights, but that deal ended two years ago. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe and Ron Pate, senior vice president of operations and technical services for Ameren Illinois, attended an event Feb. 8 to mark the official change.

Hawaii Convention Center To Host Sports Tournaments

Hawaii Tourism Authority and Hawaii Convention Center announced the securing of agreements with three national sports organizations to host futsal (indoor soccer), basketball and volleyball tournaments played on the center's new sports courts, starting this year. All three tournaments will be held in Hawaii Convention Center's Kamehameha Exhibit Hall.

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